



Friday
Sept. 17, 2010

Weekly Views

The IDOC was recently awarded over \$700,000 for the expansion of the Miami Accessible Media Project (formerly known as the Miami Braille Project) under the Second Chance Act Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles Grant. This one year project will expand the depth of training capabilities in the current Braille transcription certification program at Miami Correctional Facility, and add a post-release component to provide transitional services, including small business/self-employment mentoring and assistance through non-profit collaborations. The Miami Accessible Media Project is a joint effort of the Indiana School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Correction and PEN Products.

Offenders from Westville Correctional Facility's level 1 unit are providing home restoration services through the Habitat for Humanity of Michigan City.

Last week, AM radio talk show "Afternoons with Amos" aired live from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). The historic program was the first time any live radio broadcast had taken place within an IDOC facility. Amos Brown used the show to inform the public about IREF's programs, the residents' contributions to the community and to discuss IDOC's role in preparing offenders for re-entry to Indiana communities amidst America's economic downturn.



WTHI Television crews visited the Wabash Valley PLUS Unit to highlight the need for and importance of volunteers in the offender re-entry process. The upcoming feature report will focus on long time Wabash Valley volunteer Dr. Vince McFarland.

On Saturday, September 18th Pendleton Juvenile's Boy Scout Troop #1888 will hold their annual camp out where students will be setting

up tents in the back recreation yard. Matt Bender with the Crossroads of America District will be attending the event and helping supply some of the needed items. The Troop will also be holding a Pine Wood Derby Race on Saturday. The scouts have worked hard making their cars for this event.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) sponsored a bake sale with goods donated by CIF staff members. The proceeds from the sale will go to Camp Riley for Children.

Getting the SECC Campaign rolling, Central Office held a Silent Auction with items donated by local businesses, including the Indianapolis Colts and the Indiana Pacers! Quilts, art work, crocheted blankets and hats, and a hand made wooden clock were also donated by offenders from various facilities. The first ever DOC Fashion Show was also held at the Indiana War Memorial featuring IDOC staff sporting the Do's and Don'ts of the work place as well as some high fashion ensembles!



A graduation was held at the Northern Regional Academy for new Correctional Officer Trainees. Jonetta Broaden from Indiana State Prison received the Teamwork Award.

The Thursday edition of the Sullivan Daily Times featured State Senator John Waterman accepting 400 medicine bags he requested for the Sullivan County American Indian Council's Pow-Wow. All materials for the medicine bags were donated and produced by Wabash PLUS participants.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) hosted a PROG (Prison Rape Oversight Group) Meeting for IDOC Staff. While visiting ISP, committee members were able to take a tour of the facility.

Ten offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison were hired to sew the official 2012 Super Bowl patch on each of the scarves collected for the Super Scarves program. The 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee launched the Super Scarves program in February to help get the public involved while providing a little reward for each volunteer. 8,000 knitted or crocheted scarves will be collected, one for every volunteer expected to sign up. Some of the offenders have also made their own scarves to donate; more than 100 have come from the Women's Prison!